



2016–17 State High School English Language Arts/Literacy Assessments

Achieve collected from publicly available sources (e.g., state education agency websites) which English Language Arts (ELA)/literacy assessments states are/will administer statewide in high school in 2016–17.

What changes did states make to English Language Arts/literacy assessments in 2016–17?

Six states (AK, CO, IL, MT, NE, and OK) are administering a new ELA assessment this year. Of these, two states, Colorado and Illinois, have selected the redesigned SAT as their statewide assessment, and two others, Montana and Nebraska are administering the ACT. Alaska and Oklahoma have new state-developed assessments this spring.

Which assessments are students taking in 2016–17?

Twenty-seven states are administering either the ACT or the SAT in high school. Nearly **half of the states (24)** are administering a state-developed assessment in ELA. **Fifteen states** employ an assessment developed by the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) or Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (Smarter Balanced).

- **Seventeen states** are administering the ACT to all high school students this spring. Of these, **four states** (MT, NE, WI, and WY) use the ACT as their sole ELA exam. All others administer the ACT in addition to another statewide ELA test. Ohio requires that all students take a college entrance exam in high school, and districts have the option of administering either the ACT or the SAT.
- **Nine states** (CA, HI, ID, ND, OR, SD, VT, WA, and WV) will assess students in ELA using Smarter Balanced, while **six states** (CO, DC, MD, NJ, NM, and RI) will administer one or more PARCC assessments in ELA.
- **Eight states** assess high school students in ELA using the redesigned SAT. Of these, seven states, (CO, CT, DE, IL, ME, MI, and NH) use the SAT as their sole ELA assessment.

When do students take these assessments?

Forty-one states administer a comprehensive (i.e., end of grade) assessment (or assessments) that is administered to all students in a cohort at the same time regardless of the courses the student has taken in high school, while **18 states** give an end-of-course (EOC) assessment (or assessments) that students take upon completion of the requisite coursework regardless of what grade they are in.

Do students have to pass these assessments to graduate?

For the graduating class of 2017, there are **19 states** that have student stakes tied to an assessment – **six states** factor student scores on the assessment(s) into course grades and in **13 states** students must pass an assessment to graduate. **Thirty-two states** have no assessment stakes for students in the class of 2017.

A few considerations to keep in mind when reviewing the table:

- As states phase in new assessments, some are introducing the assessments by cohort, e.g., the class of 2017 (the more common approach for comprehensive assessments), and others are introducing the assessments by school year, e.g., students who take an Algebra I course in 2016–17 take the Algebra I assessment, regardless of what year they will graduate (the more common approach for end-of-course assessments).
- Regarding which students take the assessment, in states that administer end-of-course (EOC) assessments, the expectation is that a student will take the EOC assessment when the student completes the course. In other words, students take the appropriate EOCs for the ELA and mathematics courses in which the student is enrolled. In states where assessments are classified as “only students who elect to take the course,” the course itself is not a graduation requirement, but the state administers a statewide assessment for students who elect to enroll in the course.
- Regarding student stakes, states have different policies for how much such tests matter for students or whether there are stakes attached. Most commonly, students are either required to achieve a passing score on an assessment or suite of assessments to graduate or the assessment results are factored into a student’s course grade. All states that require students to achieve a passing score to graduate offer students alternate routes to meeting the requirement if they are unable to meet the passing score on the assessments.



	2016–17 High School ELA Assessments	Grade taken	Which students take the assessment	Student stakes (Factors into course grades OR students must pass assessment to graduate)	Change from 2015–16 to 2016–17	Additional Notes
AL	ACT QualityCore English 9 EOC	Grade 9	Optional Assessment	No	Yes	Assessment Administration: This is the last year of administration for QualityCore EOCs. ACT has made the decision to retire ACT QualityCore end-of-course assessments at the end of the 2016-2017 school year. Source
	ACT QualityCore English 10 EOC	Grade 10	Optional Assessment	No	Yes	
	ACT Aspire Early High School	Grade 10	All students	No	No	
	ACT Plus Writing	Grade 11	All students	No	No	
	ACT WorkKeys	Grade 12	All students	No	No	
AK	Performance Evaluation for Alaska’s Schools (PEAKS) (ELA)	Grades 9 and 10	All students	No	Yes	Assessment Administration: The law that made taking the SAT, ACT, or WorkKeys a requirement for receiving a high school diploma expired June 30, 2016. Source
AZ	Arizona’s Measurement of Educational Readiness to Inform Teaching (AzMERIT) ELA EOC in English 9	EOC	All students	No	No	Student stakes: SB 1191 (2015) ended the AIMS high school graduation requirement. High school students graduating after Dec. 31, 2016 will no longer be required to pass the AIMS test as a graduation requirement.
	AzMERIT EOC in English 10	EOC	All students	No	No	
	AzMERIT EOC in English 11	EOC	All students	No	No	
AR	ACT Aspire Early High School	Grades 9 and 10	All students	No	No	
	ACT	Grade 11	All students	No	No	
CA	California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CASPP) Smarter Balanced (ELA)	Grade 11	All students	No	No	
CO	PSAT	Grade 10	All students	No	No	
	PARCC English 9 EOC	Grade 9	All students	No	No	
	SAT	Grade 11	All students	No	Yes	
CT	SAT	Grade 11	All students	No	Yes	
DE	PSAT	Grade 10	All students	No	No	
	SAT	Grade 11	All students	No	Yes	
DC	PARCC English I EOC	EOC	All students	No	Yes	Assessment administration: It will be a local option in 2016-17 to administer the PARCC English III assessment.
	PARCC English II EOC	EOC	All students	No	No	
	PARCC English III EOC	EOC	Local Option	No	No	



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FL	Florida Standards Assessment (FSA) English 10	Grade 10	All students	Passing score required to graduate beginning with students entering grade 9 in 2013-14	No	Student stakes: Florida students must pass the English 10 FSA and Algebra I EOC to graduate. Beginning with students entering grade 9 in 2014-15, to qualify for a scholar diploma designation on a standard high school diploma, a student must earn a passing score on the Geometry and Algebra II EOCs (as well as Biology and U.S. History). Source
GA	Georgia Milestones Assessment System 9th Grade Literature and Composition	EOC	All students	Score factored into course grade	No	
	Georgia Milestones American Literature and Composition	EOC	All students	Score factored into course grade	No	
HI	Smarter Balanced (ELA)	Grade 11	All students	No	No	
	ACT plus writing	Grade 11	All students	No	No	
ID	Idaho Standards Achievement Tests (ISATs) (Smarter Balanced ELA)	Grade 10	All students	Passing score required to graduate (see note)	No	Student stakes: Idaho was phasing in a passing score on the high school assessment that would be required for students to graduate. In November 2016, the State Board of Education decided that students will not be required to pass it this year, or in the future. This rule, once passed by the Board must be approved by the legislature to take effect. The legislature will weigh in on this in the spring session.
IL	SAT	Grade 11	All students	No	Yes	
IN	Indiana Statewide Testing for Educational Progress Plus (ISTEP+) aligned to Indiana State Standards ECA in English 10	Grade 10	All students	Passing score required to graduate beginning with Grade 10 students in 2016-17	Yes	Student stakes: In 2015-16, the ISTEP+ Grade 10 Assessment (E/LA and Math) became the state's accountability exam. The ECAs (aligned to the IAS 2000 Algebra I, 2006 English 10 standards) will be available for retakes through the 2018-19 school year. Source .
IA	Iowa Assessments (ELA)	Grade 11	All students	No	No	Assessment administration: The Iowa Department of Education's work to transition the state's schools to the Smarter Balanced Assessments has been temporarily put on hold. The Iowa Legislature this season plans to re-examine the issue of state assessments.
KS	Kansas Assessment Program (KAP) ELA	Grade 10	All students	No	No	
KY	Kentucky Performance Rating for Educational Progress (K-PREP) ACT QualityCore English 10 EOC	EOC	All students	Score factored into course grade	No	Student stakes: The Kentucky Board of Education has recommended the EOC test results be used as 20 percent of a student's final grade in the course, as determined by local policy. Regulation requires each school district that includes EOC test results as less than 20 percent report to the



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	K-PREP (Writing)	Grade 10, 11	All students	No	No	percentage used to the Kentucky Department of Education and provide justification for the decision. Source Career Ready Assessment: ACT WorkKeys or KOSSA are optional for the state accountability system, but students on a career pathway may be required to participate in one or more of these assessments due to local policy. One of two career readiness assessments are required.
	ACT	Grade 11	All students	No	No	
	ACT WorkKeys or KOSSA	High School	Local Option	No	No	
LA	English II EOC	EOC	All students	Score factored into course grade	No	Student stakes: EOCs comprise between 15 percent and 30 percent of the student’s final grade in the subject. To earn a standard high school diploma, students must earn a score of Fair or above on three EOCs, including one in each category — Algebra I or Geometry, English II or English III, and Biology or U.S. History. Source
	English III EOC	EOC	All students	Score factored into course grade	No	
	ACT	Grade 11	All students	No	No	
	ACT WorkKeys	Grade 11	Primarily for students in grade 11 who are on track for a Jump Start Diploma	No	No	
ME	SAT	Grade 11	All students	No	No	Assessment Administration: SAT replaces Smarter Balanced for grade 11.
MD	PARCC English II EOC	Grade 10	All students	Passing score required to graduate beginning with class of 2017	No	Student stakes: In April 2016, the SBOE voted to phase in new high stakes graduation requirements. Under the proposal, the class of 2017 would have to earn a passing score (level 3) to graduate. The minimum score required to graduate would increase every year, leveling off at a level 4 for the class of 2020. This proposal will be open for public comment prior to final approval. Source
MA	Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) - ELA	Grade 10	All students	Passing score required to graduate	No	Student stakes: All Massachusetts high school students through at least the class of 2019 must continue to pass the grade 10 high school MCAS tests in ELA and Mathematics to satisfy the state graduation requirement.
MI	Michigan Merit Exam (MME)	Grade 11	All students	No	No	
	PSAT (PreSAT)	Grades 9, 10	All students	No	No	
MN	Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCA) - ELA	Grade 10	All students	No	No	
MS	Mississippi Assessment Program (MAP) - English II	EOC	All students	Yes	No	Student stakes: Starting in the 2016-2017 school year, SATP scores will constitute 25 percent of a student’s final grade in the applicable course. Source
	ACT	Grade 11	All students	No	No	



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MO	English I EOC	EOC	Local Option	No	No	
	English II EOC	EOC	All students	No	No	
	ACT	Grade 11	All students	No	No	
MT	ACT with Writing	Grade 11	All students	No	Yes	
NE	Nebraska State Accountability Tests (NeSA) Reading and Writing (ACT)	Grade 11	All students	No	Yes	Assessment Administration: ACT is the new assessment for Grade 11.
NV	High School Proficiency Exam in Reading and Writing (HSPE)	High School	5th and 6th year seniors	Passing score required to graduate through class of 2016	No	<p>Assessment Administration: Four End of Course Examinations are taking the place of the Nevada HSPE.</p> <p>Student stakes: The Class of 2016 will be the last students required to pass the Nevada HSPE. Four End of Course Examinations are taking the place of the Nevada HSPE.</p> <p>The classes of 2017 and 2018 will need to take the EOCs and no passing scores are required. The Class of 2019 (8th graders this year) and later will be the first class of students required to receive a passing score on the EOCs, which will be set by the SBOE. Source</p>
	ELA I EOC (focus	EOC	All students	See note	No	
	ELA II EOC (focus	EOC	All students	See note	No	
	ACT plus Writing	Grade 11	All students	No	No	
NH	SAT	Grade 11	All students	No	No	Assessment administration: NH also gained approval for their PACE pilot assessment program.
NJ	PARCC English 9 EOC	EOC	All students	See note	No	<p>Student stakes: For the classes of 2016, 2017 and 2018, students will be able to satisfy the state requirements of demonstrating proficiency in ELA in several ways. For ELA, students may achieve a passing score on a PARCC ELA assessment in grades 9, 10 or 11 <i>or</i> achieve a passing score on a Substitute Competency Test <i>or</i> meet the criteria of the NJDOE Portfolio Appeal. Additional guidance can be found here.</p>
	PARCC English 10 EOC	EOC	All students	See note	No	
	PARCC English 11 EOC	EOC	All students	See note	No	



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NM	PARCC English I EOC	EOC	All students	See note	No	<p>Assessment Administration: Students in grades 9–11 must take their grade-level PARCC ELA tests unless they are enrolled in a higher level ELA course. In that case, they may take the PARCC ELA test corresponding to their course. Students in grades 9–11 enrolled in a course lower than their grade level (e.g., an 11th grader enrolled in English/Language Arts II) must take their grade-level PARCC test.</p> <p>Student stakes: In order to receive a standard diploma, students must pass: PARCC ELA Grade 11 with at least a score of 725 (Performance Level 3) or PARCC ELA Grade 11 Reading subscore of at least 42 and PARCC ELA Grade 11 Writing subscore of at least 31.</p>
	PARCC English II EOC	EOC	All students	See note	No	
	PARCC English III EOC	EOC	All students	See note	No	
	Standards Based Assessment/High School Graduation Assessment (SBA/HSGA) in ELA	High School	Available for grade 12 retest in 2016-17	See note	No	
NY	Regents English Language Arts Exam (Common Core)	EOC	All students	Passing score required to graduate	No	
NC	North Carolina READY CCSS-PreACT	EOC	All students	Score factored into course grade	No	
	ACT	Grade 10	All students	No	No	
	ACT	Grade 11	All students	No	No	
	ACT WorkKeys	Grade 11	Seniors who are Career and Technical Education (CTE) concentrators	No	No	
ND	North Dakota State Assessment (NDSA) Smarter Balanced (ELA)	Grade 11	All students	No	No	<p>Assessment Administration: All students must take either the ACT or the ACT WorkKeys prior to graduation.</p>
	ACT/WorkKeys	Grade 11	See note	No	No	
OH	Reading Ohio Graduation Test	See note	12 th grade retakes	Passing score required to	No	<p>Assessment Administration: For the 2016-17 school year, 12th grade students can retake an OGT content area(s) as needed. Districts and community schools must administer a state-funded college and career readiness test to juniors in spring 2017 as one of their three diploma options (ACT or SAT).</p>
	Writing OGT	See note	12 th grade retakes	Passing score required to	No	
	English Language Arts I	EOC	All students	See note	No	
	English Language Arts II	EOC	All students	See note	No	



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	ACT/SAT	Grade 11	Local Option			Student stakes: Beginning with the Class of 2018, students in Ohio earn points toward graduation on seven end-of-course exams: English I and II, Algebra I/Integrated Math I, Geometry/Integrated Math II, physical science, American history and American government. With few exceptions, students must accumulate a minimum number of points from scores on their end of course exams to become eligible for a diploma. Source .
OK	Oklahoma School Testing Program (OSTP) Grade 10 assessment in English	Grade 10	All students	Passing score required to graduate	Yes	
OR	Smarter Balanced (ELA)	Grade 11	All students	Passing score required to graduate (see note)	No	Student stakes: In Oregon, there are multiple ways students may demonstrate the Essential Skills graduation requirements; students are not required to pass the state test (Smarter Balanced) in order to graduate, though achieving a passing score on these statewide assessments is one way to fulfill the requirements. Source
PA	Keystone Exam in Literature	EOC	All students	No – see note	No	Student stakes: Gov. Wolf signed SB 880 (2016), which delays using the Keystone Exams in Literature, Algebra I and biology to graduate until the class of 2019. Previously, the stakes were to begin with class of 2017.
RI	PARCC English I EOC	EOC	All students	No	No	
	SAT	Grade 11	Optional	No	No	
	PSAT	Grade 10	Optional	No	No	
SC	End of Course Examination Program (EOCEP) in English I	EOC	All students	Yes	No	Student Stakes: EOCEP examination scores count 20 percent in the calculation of the student’s final grade in gateway courses. Defined gateway courses currently include the following courses or courses with other names and activity codes in which the same academic standards are taught: Algebra 1, Intermediate Algebra, Biology 1, English 1, and United States History and the Constitution.
	ACT	Grade 11	All students	No	No	
	ACT WorkKeys	Grade 11	All students	No	No	
SD	Smarter Balanced (ELA)	Grade 11	All students	No	No	
TN	TN Ready English I EOC	EOC	All students	District option whether to factor score into course grade	No	Student stakes: S 285/HB 36 (2015) removes the requirement that grading policies of local boards of education must include student scores in a TCAP subject area as part of the student’s grade in that subject area; permits a local board to have such
	TN Ready English II EOC	EOC	All students	District option whether to factor score into course grade	No	



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	TN Ready English III EOC	EOC	All students	District option whether to factor score into course grade	No	policy if it so desires.
	ACT	Grade 11	All students	No	No	
TX	State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) EOC in English I	EOC	All students	Passing score required to graduate	No	Assessment Administration: Beginning in spring 2016, STAAR English III and Algebra II will be available for districts to administer as optional assessments. Student stakes: Beginning with the class of 2015, students must pass the STAAR EOCs in English I and English II to graduate.
	STAAR EOC in English II	EOC	All students	Passing score required to graduate	No	
	STAAR EOC in English III	EOC	District Option	No	No	
UT	Student Assessment of Growth and Excellence (SAGE) EOC in Writing 9	EOC	All students	No	No	
	SAGE EOC in Writing 10	EOC	All students	No	No	
	SAGE EOC in Writing 11	EOC	All students	No	No	
	SAGE EOC in Reading, Language	EOC	All students	No	No	
	SAGE EOC in Reading, Language	EOC	All students	No	No	
	SAGE EOC in Reading, Language	EOC	All students	No	No	
ACT	Grade 11	All students	No	No		
VT	Smarter Balanced (ELA)	Grade 11	All students	No	No	
VA	Reading Standards of Learning	EOC	All students	Passing score required to graduate	No	Student stakes: To graduate with a Standard Diploma, students must earn at least six verified credits by passing end-of-course SOL tests or other assessments approved by the State Board of Education, which must include two verified credits in English and one verified credit in math. Students must pass one math SOL and one science SOL to fulfill their graduation requirements.
	Writing SOL	EOC	All students	Passing score required to graduate	No	
WA	Smarter Balanced (ELA)	Grade 11	All students	See note	No	Student Stakes: Beginning with the class of 2019, the state will use the Smarter Balanced exam in ELA and math for graduation (cut score to be determined by State Board of Education). Source
WA	Reading and Writing High School Proficiency Exam (HSPE)	High School	Available for retakes, not for new administration	Passing score required to graduate for class of 2015 (one of two options along with Smarter Balanced for class of 2016)	No	



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WV	West Virginia General Summative Assessment (includes the Smarter Balanced assessment in ELA)	Grade 11	All students	No	No	
WI	ACT Aspire Early High School	Grades 9-10	All students	No	No	
	ACT plus Writing	Grade 11	All students	No	No	
WY	ACT Aspire Early High School	Grades 9-10	All students	No	No	
	ACT plus Writing	Grade 11	All students	No	No	

Source: These data are based on the Achieve’s ongoing monitoring of states’ academic standards, graduation requirements, assessments and accountability systems. Updates to the table will be made on an ongoing basis as states’ assessments and related policies evolve.